

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 4, 2003, claims 1-23 are pending. Claim 12 is allowable and claims 4-9, 13, 14, 22, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, these claims have been amended and are in a condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 15-20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Byon (USPN 5,847,472).

Claims 1, 3, 16, 19, and 21 have been canceled.

Claims 2 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form and include the limitation of a controller storing a deployment end time in a memory device. The Office Action states that Byon discloses this claim limitation in col. 6, line 67. In col. 6, line 67 and in col. 7, line 1, Byon stores transmission time of an air bag control signal and an expansion time of an airbag. Storing of a deployment end time is not disclosed in the stated lines or anywhere else in Byon. Thus, claims 2 and 17 are novel, nonobvious, and are in a condition for allowance.

Claims 10 and 15 have similar limitations and will therefore be discussed together. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form and claim 15 has been amended to be dependant upon allowable claim 12. Both claim 10 and claim 15 include the limitation of information that is stored in the memory device being uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable. Restraint control modules of prior art allow for information stored to be undesirably reset or cleared by a technician. Information stored by the prior art systems and additional information disclosed and stored by the present invention may be utilized to determine whether a device has been involved in a collision, whether the device should be serviced or replaced, as well as other information, such as deployment times and fault times of the device. The Office Action states that it is inherent to use any kind of memory in order to save the data/information. It may be inherent to use a memory to store the data, but it is not inherent to use a memory

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that prevents the data from being reset, erased, and overwritten. The present invention aids in the prevention of data being deleted.

Byon discloses a memory section and states that the memory section is preferably erasable. Thus, Byon teaches away from the memory claimed by claims 10 and 15 of the present invention, which further indicates the novelty of claims 10 and 15. Thus, claims 10 and 15 are novel, nonobvious, and are in a condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the limitation of the controller storing an RCM operating time in the stored device. The Office Action states that Byon discloses this limitation and refers to Figure 1. Figure 1 shows a control circuit and a clock generating device. The clock generating device generates a clock signal. Nowhere in Figure 1 or anywhere else in Byon is operating time of an RCM, of a controller, or of a control circuit disclosed or stored. Thus, claim 11 is novel, nonobvious, and in a condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the limitation of indicating whether the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision. Claim 18 has also been amended, such that the indication is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable, which is not disclosed by Byon. Thus, claim 18 is novel, nonobvious, and in a condition for allowance.

Claims 20 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the limitation of indicating when a deployment time corresponds with a fault time. The Office Action states the Byon discloses this claimed limitation and refers to col. 6, lines 64-67. Again, Byon discloses storing transmission time of a control signal, in other words duration time of the control signal, and an expansion time of the airbag. Byon does not disclose storing an indication as to when a deployment time corresponds with a fault time, let alone providing an indication thereof. Thus, claim 20 is also novel, nonobvious, and in a condition for allowance.

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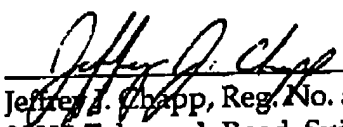
As noted above, claim 4 contains allowable subject matter. In accordance thereof, claims 4, 7-9, and 22-23 have been redrafted in independent form. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4 and are therefore novel and nonobvious for at least the same reasons as that of claim 4. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 12 and are also therefore novel and nonobvious for at least the same reasons as that of claim 12.

Applicants therefore submit that each and every limitation of claims 2, 10, 11, 15, 17-18, and 20 are not taught or suggested by Byon and are therefore novel, nonobvious, and are also allowable.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all objections and rejections are now overcome. The Applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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